2. (amended) A compound of the formula I or II as claimed in claim 1 in which

R^1 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, it also being possible for one C atom of the alkyl radical to carry OR^{11} or a group R^5, where

R^{11} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, CF_3, CN, $NR^{21}R^{22}$, NH-CO-R^{23}, OR^{21}, where

R^{21} and R^{22} are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, arid

R^{23} [are [sic]] <u>is</u> hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and

R^3 is $-O-(CH_2)_o-(CHR^{31})_m-(CH_2)_n-R^5$, where

R^{31} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH and O-C_1-C_4-alkyl,

m,o [is [sic]] <u>are</u>, independently of one another, 0, 1 or 2, and

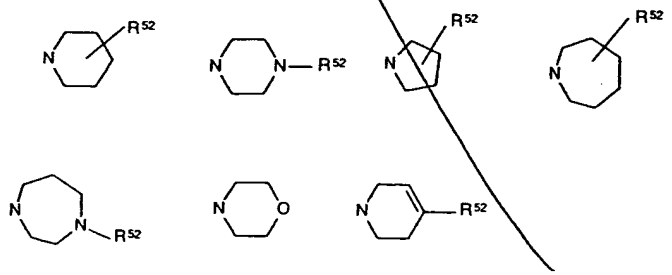
n is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

R^4 is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, chlorine, bromine, fluorine, nitro, cyano, $NR^{41}R^{42}$ NH-CO-R^{43} OR^{41} where

R^{41} and R^{42} are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, and

R^{43} [are [sic]] <u>is</u> C_1-C_4-alkyl or phenyl, and

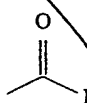
R^5 is $NR^{51}R^{52}$ or one of the following radicals



where

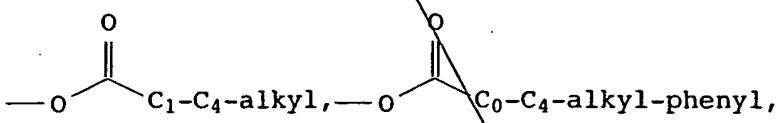
R^{51} is hydrogen and branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, and

R^{52} [[lacuna]] is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl phenyl, [and]



, $-SO_2R^{53}$, in which

R^{53} is branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_6-alkyl, phenyl, branched or unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, where one hydrogen in the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical in R^{52} and R^{53} can, independently of one another, be substituted by one of the following radicals: OB, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, tetrahydronaphthyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cycloheptyl, naphthyl and phenyl, where the carbocycles of the R^{52} and R^{53} radicals may also, independently of one another, carry one or two of the following radicals: branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, branched or unbranched O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, OH, F, C1, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, NH_2, CN, COOH, $COOC_1$-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, $CC1_3$, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl, SO_2phenyl, $CONH_2$, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CONHphenyl, CONH-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, $NHSO_2$-C_1-C_4-alkyl, $NBSO_2$phenyl, S-C_1-C_4-alkyl,



CHO, CH_2-O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -CH_2O-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, -CH_2OH, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -SO-C_1-C_4-alkyl-phenyl, SO_2NH_2, -SO_2NH-C_1-C_4-alkyl and two radicals form a bridge -O-$(CH_2)_{1,2}$-O-,

and the tautomeric form, possible enantiomeric and diastereomeric forms thereof, the prodrugs thereof, and possible physiologically tolerated salts.

4. (amended) A compound as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, where R^2 is in position 3 and R^3 is in position 4 or R^2 is in position 4 and R^3 is in position 3 relative to the benzimidazole ring.

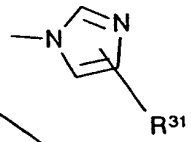
5. (amended) A compound as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, where R^1 and R^4 are hydrogen.

6. (amended) A compound as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, where

R^2 is hydrogen, branched or unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, nitro, CN, NH_2, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl.

7. (amended) A compound as claimed in [any of claims 1 or 3 to 6] claim 1 where

(i) for R^3 being

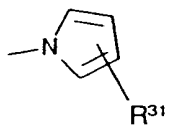


R^{31} is hydrogen or $-(CH_2)_p-R^5$, where

p is 1 or 2 and

R^{52} may be hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, where one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl, and where the phenyl ring may also carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4- dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CN, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl;

(ii) for R^3 being

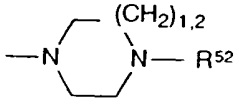


R^{31} is hydrogen or $-(CH_2)_p-R^5$, where

p is 1 or 2 and

R^{52} may be hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, where one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl, and where the phenyl ring may also carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4- dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CN, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl;

and (iii) for R^3 being



where R^{52} is hydrogen, branched and unbranched C_1-C_6-alkyl, where one hydrogen of the C_1-C_6-alkyl radical may be substituted by one of the following radicals: OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl and phenyl, and where the phenyl ring may also carry one or two of the following radicals: chlorine, bromine, fluorine, branched and unbranched C_1-C_4-alkyl, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino, OH, O-C_1-C_4-alkyl, CN, SO_2-C_1-C_4-alkyl.

8. (amended) A compound as claimed in [any of claims 1, 2 or 4 to 6] claim 1, where R^3 is -O-$(CH_2)_p$-R^5 with p equal to 2, 3 or 4.

9. (amended) A compound as claimed in [any of claims 1, 2 or 4 to 7] claim 1, where R^5 is a 6-membered ring and R^{52} is an optionally substituted phenyl ring.

10. (amended) A drug comprising besides conventional vehicles and ancillary substances a compound as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 9] claim 1.

11. (amended) [The use of compounds of the formula I as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10 for producing drugs] A method for treating [diseases] a disorder in which pathologically elevated PARP activities occur, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula I as claimed in claim 1 to a mammal

suffering from said disorder.

12. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [to 6 for producing drugs for treating] wherein the disorder is a neurodegenerative [diseases and] disease or involves neuronal damage.

13. (amended) The [use] method as claimed in claim [11 for treating neurodegenerative diseases and neuronal damage] 12, wherein the neurodegenerative disease or neuronal damage is induced by ischemia, trauma or massive bleeding.

14. (amended) The [use] method as claimed in claim 11 [for treating] wherein the disorder is stroke and craniocerebral trauma.

15. (amended) The [use] method as claimed in claim 11 [for treating] wherein the disorder is Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease.

16. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for the treatment or prophylaxis of] wherein the disorder is damage due to ischemia.

17. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating epilepsies, in particular generalized epileptic seizures, such as, for example, petit mal and tonoclonic seizures and partial epileptic seizures such as temporal lope [sic], and complex partial seizures] wherein the disorder is epilepsy.

18. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating] wherein the disorder is damage to the

kidneys after renal ischemia, damage caused by drug therapy [such as, for example, during yclosporin therapy, and for treatment during and] or damage resulting after kidney transplants.

19. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating] wherein the disorder is damage to the heart after cardiac ischemia.

20. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating microinfarcts such as, for example, during and after heart valve replacement, aneurysm resections and heart transplants] wherein the disorder is a microinfarct.

21. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treatment in cases of revascularization [sic] of critically narrowed coronary arteries such as for example, PTCA and bypass operations or critically narrowed peripheral arteries, especially leg arteries] wherein the disorder is under vascularization of critically narrowed coronary arteries.

22. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating] wherein the disorder is an acute myocardial infarct and damage during and after medical or mechanical lysis thereof.

23. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating tumors and] wherein the disorder is a tumor or metastasis I thereof.

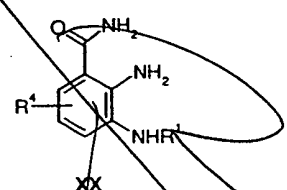
CLAIMS OZ 49500

24. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating] wherein the disorder is sepsis of multi-organ failure [such as, for example, during septic shock and "acute respiratory distress syndrome"].

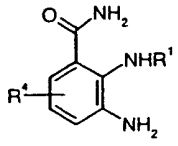
25. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating] wherein the disorder is an immunological disease [diseases such as inflammations and rheumatic diseases such as, for example, rheumatoid arthritis].

26. (amended) The [use of compounds of the formula I] method as claimed in claim 11 [for producing drugs for treating] wherein the disorder is diabetes mellitus.

27. (amended) A compound of the formula XX or XXI



XX



XXI

in which

R^4 = hydrogen and R^1 is as defined in [the preceding claims] claim 1, and salts thereof.

28. A process for preparing compounds of the formula XX or XXI as claimed in claim 27 and salts thereof, which comprises converting the corresponding ester into the

amide XX or XXI with hydrazine hydrate in an alcohol and subsequent reduction of the hydrazine with Raney nickel in a polar solvent[[sic]].

Cancel claim 29.

32. (amended) A method as claimed in [either of claims 30 or 31] claim 30, wherein the polyADP-ribosylatable target is a histone protein.

33. (amended) A method as claimed in [any of claims 30 to 32] claim 30, wherein the PARP activator is activated DNA.

34. (amended) A method as claimed in [any of claims 30 to 33] claim 30, wherein the polyADP ribosylation reaction is started by adding NAD+.

35. (amended) A method as claimed in [any of claims 30 to 34] claim 30, wherein the unsupported target is labeled with an acceptor fluorophore.

37. (amended) A method as claimed in [either of claims 35 or 36] claim 35, wherein the target is biotinylated histone, and the acceptor fluorophore is coupled thereto via avidin or streptavidin.

38. (amended) A method as claimed in [either of claims 36 and 37] claim 36, wherein the anti-poly(ADP-ribose) antibody carries a europium cryptate as donor fluorophore.